

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 11553 131626Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
DODE-00 H-01 NSC-05 /065 W
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R 131600Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9786
INFO USMISSIN NATO
SECDEF WASHDC
USNMR SHAPE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 11553

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: NATO, AWACS, MILL, GW
SUBJ: MORE ON LEBER INTERVIEW

REF: BONN 11521 DTG 121905Z JUN 77

1. DR. BLOCH, LEBER'S PERSONAL ASSISTANT, PROVIDED AN
EMBASSY OFFICER ON JULY 13 WITH SOME BACKGROUND COMMEN-
TARY ON THE POINTS MADE BY DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER IN HIS
JULY 11 "FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE" INTERVIEW (REFTEL).

-- AWACS FOR THE AIRBUS: BLOCH SAID HE INTERPRETED
LEBER'S COMMENT THAT THE AMERICANS MUST PURCHASE THE
AIRBUS IF THE EUROPEANS ACCEPTED THE BOEING AS THE AWACS
CARRIER AS AN INDICATION OF THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH
THE DEFENSE MINISTER VIEWED THE TWO-WAY STREET. WHEN
EMBASSY OFFICER POINTED OUT THAT THE USG COULD NOT FORCE
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AMERICAN COMMERCIAL CARRIERS TO BUY THE AIRBUS AND THAT
THE U.S. HAD NO NATIONAL AIRLINE COMPARABLE TO
LUFTHANSA, BLOCH SAID HE TOOK THE POINT AND THAT THE FRG
CERTAINLY WOULD NOT CLOSE ITS EARS TO SUCH ARGUMENTATION
SHOULD THE MINISTER PURSUE THE AWACS FOR AIRBUS IDEA
FURTHER.

-- AWACS DEMONSTRATION IN FRG: BLOCK SAID THAT THE TIMING FOR SUCH A DEMONSTRATION DEPENDED UPON THE CHANCELLOR'S SCHEDULE. BLOCH'S GUESS WAS THAT OCTOBER SEEMED THE LIKELIEST POSSIBILITY. SINCE LEBER WILL BE LEAVING ON VACATION IN TWO DAYS AND WILL NOT RETURN TO BONN UNTIL THE END OF AUGUST, THE EARLIEST SUCH A DECISION COULD BE REACHED WOULD BE IN SEPTEMBER. EMBASSY OFFICER INDICATED THE U.S. WOULD AWAIT FURTHER ADVICE ON THIS MATTER FROM THE FRG.

-- NEW GERMAN DEPUTY TO SACEUR: BLOCH POINTED OUT THAT SINCE THE NEW DEPUTY POSITION MUST BE FUNDED NATIONALLY, THE FRG MUST FIRST TAKE CARE OF THIS MATTER. FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM VACATION, LEBER WILL THEN DECIDE ON THE GENERAL TO FILL THE POSITION. BLOCH SAID IT WAS SURPRISING HOW MANY THREE-STAR BUNDESWEHR GENERALS CONSIDERED THEMSELVES ELIGIBLE FOR THE JOB.
CASH

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Message Attributes

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